(c) whether recently these owners have refused to honour holiday tickets of Rs. 4;

(d) whether D.T.C. has issued any instructions in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons for issuing such instructions;

(f) whether Government propose to take action against owners of private buses under DTC for refusing to honour such tickets; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The private bus owners had represented for a share of the income earned by the DTC on the sale of holiday tickets of Rs. 4. As DTC were not prepared to share these earnings as these were remunerative and in view of the difficulties in determining the share, it was decided that "travel as your please" tickets of Rs. 4 which were earlier valid in private buses under DTC on Saturdays, Sundays and Gazetted Holidays would not be allowed in the private buses operating under DTC w.e.f. 19-1-91. Instructions in this regard were issued by the DTC on 16-1-1991.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) to e) above.

Curtailment of DTC bus services

369. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the DTC to curtail its bus services to save fuel, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of DTC buses brought out from DTC fleet;

(c) whether the citizens of Delhi are facing difficulty due to curtailment of DTC bus services; and

(d) if so, the details of the further steps Government propose to take to effectively augment the DTC fleet and to replace the old and overaged buses?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) & (b) No, Sir. The average number of DTC buses put on road during Dec., 1990 and Jan., 1991 was 3826 and 3856 respectively.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) & (b) of the Question.

(d) On account of financial constraints, DTC is in a position only to replace the overaged buses. During 90-91, DTC has been given sanction for the purchase of 506 buses on replacement account. Of these, 209 buses have already been procured and for balance 297 buses, action to procure is underway and the same are likely to be added to the fleet by end June, 1991. In additional, Government propose to accord sanction for acqusition of another 394 buses on replacement account this year.

Mishap of an Indian ship off Malta

370. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Ship, 'Continental Lotus', sank off Malta on 21st January, 1991;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident;

(c) the loss of life as a result thereof; and

(d) the relief given to the families of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An application has been made for a Magisterial enquiry under Merchant Shipping Act to ascertain the causes of accident.

(c) Out of a total of forty two persons on board the ship, four servived, twenty six bodies were recovered and twelve are considered to be missing.

(d) Compensation is payable to the families of officers as per the agreement between the Shipowners and Maritime Union of India and to the families of other sea-men as per the National Maritime Board agreement.

India's stand on resolution 678 of United Nations Security Council vis-a-vis refuelling of U.S. Airforce planes

371. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have supported Resolution Number 678 of the United Nations requiring Iraq to vacate Kuwait by January 15, 1991; and

(b) if so, whether that accounted for India's refuelling of the U.S.A. Airforce planes in Bombay's Sahar Airport and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) According to Chapter VII of the UN Charter, this resolution is mandatory for India, as for all other member States of the United Nations.

(b) The transit and refuelling facilities were granted to the United States on a bilateral basis.

Statement of Deputy Press Secretary of White House on refuelling of U.S. Planes in India

372. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by the Deputy Press Secretary of White House on February, 4, 1991 expressing satisfaction over India's refuelling of C-191 Plane of the U.S. Airforce in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether it reconciles with the Government of India's earlier clarification that there was no refuelling of U.S. combat aircrafts in India; and

(c) whether such operations still continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The US Air Force planes given transit and refuelling facilities at airports in India were transport aircraft and not combat aircraft.

(c) With effect from 20 February, 1991, no transit and refueling is taking place.

USA's Come-home 'Advisory' to their Non essential staff in India

373. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of the Gulf war, the Government of United States of America issued a come-home 'advisory' to its non-essential staff and other American citizens in India, if so, the number of Americans who have left India so far;

(b) whether such advisories have been issued in respect of other countries in the region including South-East Asia; and

(c) whether it reflects the U.S.A's lack of confidence in India's capacity to protect American citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The US Government issued an advisory notice offering to repatriate non-essential staff of the US Government and their dependents in India. A travel advisory was also issued to US nationals advising them to return to the USA or defer travel to India. Government have no record of the